

PREPARING FOR WAR

PREPARING FOR WAR

Orders Given to Viceroys to Provide

for Attack and Defense.

FRANCE APPEALED TO BY CHINA

British Commander Takes Blame
for Disaster to Ninth Regiment.

SECRETARY HAY'S VIEWS

The Emperor of China has sent to President Loubet of France a letter transmitted by telegraph by the governor of Shantung, July 19.

It tells of the friendly relations between France and China, sets forth the troubles of the celestial empire with the powers and appeals to France to mediate. "We

China Massing Troops.

A dispatch from Shanghai states that there is a movement northward of southern Chinese troops to join the main army gathered to oppose the foreign advance on Peking. The strength of this principal force is now estimated at 200,000 men.

It is believed that another two or three weeks must elapse before the Chinese

Preparations are completed. It is reported that 3,000 Chinese troops and more guns are being sent to reinforce the garrison of the Kiang Yin forts, commanding the entrance to the Yang-tse-Kiang, ninety miles east of Nankin.

Chang Chi Tung, viceroy of Wu Chang, on the Yang-tse-Kiang, telegraphs that he is apprehensive that he will not be able to restrain his troops from more than another ten days. He says that he has thrown the obstructions of the guns commanding Hankow into the river.

These signs of unrest in the southern provinces are coincident with Li Hung

Must Prepare for War.
Viceroy Tak Su at Canton has published the following mandate: "An important imperial decree was issued on the 23d day of the sixth moon. It says: 'We have lost Tien Tsin, and great precautions are taken in Peking. No peace can be obtained without going through war. In the time of Chung an agreement was made that no murder can be inflicted upon ministers from

brood. It is a month since the minister of Germany was assassinated by Boxers, and strict orders have been given for the arrest of the murderers. We are trying our utmost to preserve the lives of the other ministers, and they are still in Peking. We fear that the viceroys and governors may misunderstand the intention of the decree, relying upon the safety of these ministers as a ground for making peace and taking no measures to prepare for attack and defense. The minister will urge the districts under their jurisdiction will strict vigilance. Viceroys and governors are to pay all attention to and to urge on emergency measures.

Europeans here understand thoroughly he last part of the edict, which means that the viceroys and governors are commanded by the empress dowager to prepare for a Chinese war against the allied powers.

Earl Li's Secret Instructions.

Li Hung Chang is residing at the residence of Liu, who was the envoy of the empress dowager in the secret mission to Japan.

With this accumulation of evidence of an impending big struggle comes also the news of disagreements between the powers and the foreign commanders which threaten to hamper united action and to encourage Chinese resistance. A conference of the admirals at Taku, called to settle the question regarding the management of the restored railway, decided in favor of Russian control only the British and American admirals dissenting.

British Officer Takes the Blame.
(Copyright, 1900, by the Associated Press.)
TIENTSIN, July 16, via Chefoo, July 14.—General Dordard, the British commander, has sent to the American commanders a letter in which he says:
"I desire to express the high appreciation of the British troops of the honor done them in serving alongside of their comrades of the American army and of the high honor accorded me in having them under my command."

General Dordard also expressed sympathy with the Americans in the loss of Colonel Lacum, commander of the regiment, and Captain Davis of the marine corps. He said:

Secretary Hay's Views.
Last night Secretary Hay, who was at Cleveland, Ohio, was shown the cablegram from Capt. Thomas, U. S. N., referring to the message presumed to have been received from Minister Conger, and dated July 4. "This message," said Secretary Hay, "is absolutely false."

"Neither of the messages, however, changes the situation. Whether they are genuine or not, the course of this government—the course now being pursued—must be the same." The State Department

"It must not be thought that the only outcome of the present situation is a war, even if the worst that has been published is true. There is always a possibility of avoiding war. If the worst feared proves to be true there may still be reparation without war.

"The situation is one of terrible uncertainty, and nothing that has come or pur-

Gen. Grodekoff reports that the Chinese recently cannonaded Blagovestshensk, Sunday, July 22. Little damage was done. Cos-

The steamer Vojevoda, which has arrived at Tolbuzin from Chabin, reports that she was fired upon at Chabin by Chinese from the river banks and junks.

The Japanese government is ready to mobilize three additional divisions for service in China, if required.

Protection for Foreigners.

The Belgian office yesterday received the following dispatch:

"SHANGHAI, July 23.—Li Hung Chang told me the Chinese government was ar-

(Signed) "DE CARTIER."
E. De Cartier is secretary of the Belgian
legation at Peking.